



Emily Carr University of Art + Design Archives

The Irene and Robert Alexander collection

Description + Finding Aid

520 East 1st Avenue
Vancouver, BC, Canada

Prepared by Kristy Waller, July 2021

The Irene and Robert Alexander collection

Level of Description:

Fonds

Dates of Creation:

1932-1990

Extent:

.24 meters of textual records and graphic materials

Biographical sketch:

Irene Cattelle Alexander (née Porter)

(May 24, 1922 – November 21, 2015)

Irene Cattelle Alexander (née Porter) was born in Montreal in 1922. During the 1920's, her family moved west, first to Toronto, then Winnipeg, and finally to Vancouver in the 1930s.

Irene attended Britannia High School and in grade ten she won a scholarship to study drawing and painting at the Vancouver School of Art. She completed her first year at VSA in the late 1930's where she studied under Grace Melvin. Porter left the Vancouver School of Art after her first year due to her family's financial situation and began work at Woodward's department store. She became their head Showcard writer and designed the trademark Woodward's brushstroke logo using a sing painters brush.

Irene was a member of the Atelier Sketch Club, a group formed by art students taking Evening Classes at the Vancouver School of Art. She exhibited her work in a number of B.C. Artists annual exhibitions, from 1940 to 1949 inclusive. She was included on a list titled "Leading Vancouver Artists" provided to the Labour Arts Guild on April 10, 1946 by the Vancouver Art Gallery to assist in the Guild's call for entries to the second annual B.C. At Work exhibition

Irene met Robert Samuel Alexander in 1943. Together, they built their home in North Vancouver. The house was designed by Robert Alexander, who also constructed it with the help of a builder. They married in 1949. She had to quit work at Woodward's due to company policy that required female employees to leave their jobs once married. After Irene left Woodward's, she was commissioned to letter Woodward's retirement scrolls and shortly after began freelancing as a

self-employed calligrapher. Recipients included the Van Dusen family, Jack Diamond and Prince Philip.

Irene and Robert had three daughters in 1951, 1953 and 1961. While they were kept busy raising a family, they formed a business in 1955, Studio Workshop. They later collaborated on various projects including the City of Vancouver "Freedom of the City" scrolls that were presented to dignitaries.

Irene was a founding member of the Westcoast Calligraphy Society originally named the Italic Handwriting Society, a branch of the one in England. During the 1970's, she established many of the original calligraphy classes in the lower mainland, as well as the summer art school program in the interior and enjoyed teaching for many years. In 1980 she organized a very successful calligraphy tour to England for a few lucky members of the Society which included, as one of many highlights, dinner with the Lancaster Herald. During the seventies and eighties Rob Watt commissioned Irene to do the calligraphy on many of the patents for British Columbia recipients. She was awarded the 1985 Fellow of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada.

Irene Cattelle Alexander (née Porter) passed away on November 21st, 2015.

Resources

Biography: Irene Cattelle Alexander, FRHSC – *Royal Heraldry Society of Canada*
https://www.heraldry.ca/content/bios/bio_alexander.htm

British Columbia Artists: Irene Cattelle Porter
<http://sim-publishing.com/bca/porteric.htm>

Personal communication with Renée Alexander – August 4, 2021

Robert Samuel Alexander
(August 16, 1916 – April 23, 1974)

Robert Alexander (known as Rab to friends and family) was born in Vancouver, B.C. in 1916 to parents Agnes Boyd and Arthur Forbes Alexander. He was the oldest of four boys, who were raised alongside two cousins that were taken in by the family. He attended Hastings Elementary School, Templeton Junior High School and Britannia High School. He wanted to attend the Vancouver School of Art at age sixteen, but due to his father's illness and the family's financial situation he was required to look for work. With a keen interest in the arts, he applied and was hired to work at David Hall's on Beach Avenue, the largest pictorial and sign company in Vancouver in the 1930's. Alexander took painting and portraiture evening classes at the Vancouver School of Art and

studied under Fred Varley and Platon Ustinov. He remained good friends with Ustinov after meeting as instructor and student.

During the 1930's, Robert painted in his free time and exhibited regularly at the Vancouver Art Gallery. He was invited to become a member of the B.C. Society of Fine Arts in 1937 and received various honours including First Honourable Mention for Oils in the Annual B.C. Artist's Exhibition in 1939 and later in 1941, First Honourable Mention for Watercolours. He also designed street and building decorations for the visit of King George and Queen Elizabeth in 1939.

Around this time, Robert became interested in the landscapes of the interior and northern areas of British Columbia. His uncle, Charlie Alexander, arranged a job opportunity for him working in Telegraph Creek as part of a crew to keep the telegraph trail open for repairs between Hazelton and Lake Atlin. He lived and worked on the territory of the Tahltan peoples for roughly a year and half, during which time he built relationships with members of the Nation.

Robert returned to Vancouver in 1941 as his father had fallen ill. After his father passed in October of 1941, Robert went back to work at David Hall's where he worked on contracts to design and produce posters and displays for war bond promotions. He applied for service in the Navy and was accepted in the spring of 1943. He was stationed at the HMCS Discovery barracks on Skwtsa7s (what is known as Deadman's Island) where he painted a mural over the entrance to the Officer's Mess in 1946.

Robert used his wartime gratuities to attend the Vancouver School of Art and received his diploma with honours in 1947. He met Irene Cattelle Porter in 1943. Together, they built their home in North Vancouver. The house was designed by Robert, who also constructed it with the help of a builder. Alexander and Porter married in 1949. During this time, he worked as a designer and foreman of David Hall's until 1952. Irene and Robert had three daughters in 1951, 1953 and 1961. After leaving David Hall's, he worked as a freelance artist in various capacities, including illustrating books for W.G. Gage Publishing and teaching classes at the Vancouver School of Art, West Vancouver Sketch Club and art classes held at Britannia Beach on Sunday afternoons.

In 1955 he began teaching art classes in North Vancouver. In 1956, Robert completed further studies at the Art Students' League in New York. He came back to Vancouver and together Irene and Robert formed a business, Studio Workshop, offering art classes in Vancouver. He rented studio spaces at various locations including Robson St., West Broadway and Marine Drive (North Vancouver). He also had a studio space in the family home.

In the years between 1956 and 1967 Robert accomplished numerous and varied projects. He received Canada Council funding to work on a series of optical illusions. He completed portraits for clients in Toronto, Ottawa, Regina, Victoria, Vasar, New York, and Tokyo, Japan, as well as numerous portraits in Vancouver (including portraits of W.P. Weston, Justice Nathan T. Nemetz and George Cunningham). He also submitted the winning Christmas card design for UBC,

competing against other prominent artists. Alexander completed another large mural for the Penticton Airport in 1963, which was later restored and relocated into the Penticton Civic Centre in 1989. Robert designed fresco panels for the Hotel Vancouver and also completed four murals for the now-demolished Grosvenor Hotel on Howe Street in Vancouver. His work was exhibited across North America and received a Purchase Prize Award from the Washington State Art Commission in 1963 and the Seattle Art Museum in 1966.

With development in Vancouver, including rising rents and an increasing demand on Robert's time, the couple began to phase out Studio Workshop in 1969. They stopped using the name, as UBC had started using the name to refer to an art department. He worked out of the home studio, after making some improvements to the space. He returned to landscape painting and also took up an interest in heraldic art and the medieval art of illuminating. Robert collaborated with Irene, an accomplished calligrapher, on a variety of projects, including three Freedom Scrolls for the City of Vancouver.

After being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in January of 1974, Robert Samuel Alexander passed away in his home in April of 1974.

Resources:

BC Artists

<http://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Image/Genealogy/da5936d3-95fb-46cc-8211-87437abc8df9>

Biographic Notes by Irene Alexander

From the Irene and Robert Alexander Collection (Identifier S7: Fo1)

Personal communication with Renée Alexander – August 4, 2021

Scope and content:

Fonds consists of materials documenting the lives of Robert Samuel Alexander and Irene Cattelle Alexander (née Porter). Materials include prospectuses, exhibition catalogues featuring the work of R.S. Alexander, documentation of murals, correspondence, clippings and memorabilia.

Contains series:

1. Prospectuses
2. Exhibition catalogues
3. Murals
4. Correspondence
5. Newspaper clippings
6. Artworks and photographic reproductions
7. Memorabilia and biographies

Custodial history:

Following the death of Irene Alexander in 2015, the records were in the custody of Renée Alexander. They were gifted to Gary Sim in 2021. Sim completed an inventory and consulted the records for additions to the B.C. Artists Project. Alexander and Sim donated the records to the Emily Carr University Archives in June, 2021.

Notes:*Immediate source of acquisition:*

Records were donated by Renée Alexander and Gary Sim in June, 2021.

Arrangement:

The Irene and Robert Alexander Collection reflects the arrangement constructed and recorded by Gary Sim.

Restrictions:

No restrictions apply. Access to the Irene and Robert Alexander Collection is by appointment only. Please contact the Emily Carr University Archivist for more information.

Terms governing use and reproduction/publication:

The donor's copyright regarding materials in this collection have been transferred to Emily Carr University. Copyright belonging to other parties, such as text or images, may still rest with the creator of these items. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission to publish any part of this collection.

General note:

Language: English

Related material:

- Prospectuses in the ECU Institutional Archives

Associated material

- Profiles of Irene and Robert Alexander on [B.C. Artists](#) database

Provenance and access points:

- Irene Alexander (née Porter)
- Robert Samuel Alexander

Series 1: PROSPECTUSES

Dates of Creation:

1932-1968

Extent:

6 cm of textual records and graphic materials

Scope and content:

Series contains prospectuses, conference notes and an information sheet from the Vancouver School of Art (1932 – 1957), the B.C. College of Art (1933), the HF Smith Academy of Art (ca. 1941), and Studio Workshop (1961-1968).

UNIT/ IDENTIFIER	TITLE	DATE	EXTENT	SCOPE AND CONTENT	LOCATION
Item 2021-002.001	BCCA : 1933 notice of opening	1933	1 leaflet	Item is a leaflet advertising the opening of the British Columbia College of Art in September, 1933. The leaflet lists the directors of the school as Frederick H. Varley and James W.G. Macdonald, assisted by Harry Taüber. The leaflet lists the credentials of the three men.	04-A-01 fld 01
Item 2021-002.002	BCCA : 1933-34 prospectus	1933	1 v. (23 p.)	Item is the 1933-34 prospectus for the British Columbia College of Arts.	04-A-01 fld 02
Item 2021-002.003	H.F Smith Academy of Art : prospectus	[ca. 1941]	1 v. (11 p.)	Item is a prospectus for the H.F. Smith Academy of Art, possibly for the year 1941. The Academy was located at 3842 Oak Street. The prospectus includes a brief history of the school, class offerings, fees and a list of students successfully placed as artists.	04-A-01 fld 03
Item 2021-002.004	School of Decorative and Applied Art : 1932- 33 prospectus	1932	1 v. (20 p.)	Item is the 1932-33 prospectus of the School of Decorative and Applied Arts. The prospectus lists administration and staff; facility information; course offerings; fees; scholarships; and a list of graduates	04-A-01 fld 04

				from 1931-32. The cover image is by Jock Macdonald.	
Item 2021-002.005	Vancouver School of Art : decorative and applied : prospectus 1933-1934	1933	1 v. (23 p.)	Item is the 1933-34 prospectus of the Vancouver School of Art. The prospectus lists administration and staff; facility information; course offerings; and fees.	04-A-01 fld 05
Item 2021-002.006	Vancouver School of Art : prospectus : tenth session 1934-1935	1934	1 v. (28 p.)	Item is the 1934-35 prospectus of the Vancouver School of Art. The prospectus lists administration and staff; facility information; course offerings; conditions of admission, rules and regulations; fees; and a 1933-34 graduating list. The prospectus has an original pencil drawing on the back cover, most likely by Irene Porter or Robert Alexander.	04-A-01 fld 06
Item 2021-002.007	Vancouver School of Art : evening courses : session 1935-36	1935	1 leaflet	Item is a leaflet advertising evening courses for the 1935-36 session at the Vancouver School of Art.	04-A-01 fld 07
Item 2021-002.008	Vancouver School of Art : prospectus 1936-1937	1936	1 v. (30 p.)	Item is the 1936-37 prospectus of the Vancouver School of Art. The prospectus lists administration and staff; facility information; course offerings; conditions of admission, rules and regulations; fees; and a 1935-36 graduating list. The back page has been torn and is missing the bottom half.	04-A-01 fld 08
Item 2021-002.009	The Vancouver School of Art prospectus : 13 th session 1937-1938	1937	1 v. (27 p.)	Item is the 1937-38 prospectus of the Vancouver School of Art. The prospectus lists administration and staff; facility information; course offerings; conditions of admission, rules and regulations; fees; a 1936-37 graduating list; and merit certificate recipients. The first page has the text: "Irene Porter, 3333 Commercial Drive, 1 st year, Mr. Binning, room 1" written in pencil.	04-A-01 fld 09

Item 2021-002.010	14 th session, 1938-1939 : Vancouver School of Art : prospectus	1938	1 v. (32 p.)	Item is the 1938-39 prospectus of the Vancouver School of Art. The prospectus lists administration and staff; conditions of admission, rules and regulations; facility information; and course offerings.	04-A-01 fld 10
Item 2021-002.011	The Vancouver School of Art : prospectus : 15 th session 1939-1940	1939	1 v. (23 p.)	Item is the 1939-40 prospectus of the Vancouver School of Art. The prospectus lists administration and staff; general information; course offerings; and awards 1938-1939	04-A-01 fld 11
Item 2021-002.012	The Vancouver School of Art : prospectus : 16 th session 1940-1941	1940	1 v. (23 p.)	Item is the 1940-41 prospectus of the Vancouver School of Art. The prospectus lists administration and staff; general information; course offerings; and awards 1939-1940. A "Student Application for Registration" is enclosed.	04-A-01 fld 12
Item 2021-002.013	Prospectus : The Vancouver School of Art for professional training in commercial, industrial and fine art : session 1941-1942	1941	1 v. (28 p.)	Item is the 1941-42 prospectus of the Vancouver School of Art. The prospectus lists general information; administration and staff; calendar and fees; course offerings; examples of student work; awards 1940-41; and employment and war work positions occupied by students. A "Student Application for Registration" is enclosed.	04-A-01 fld 13
Item 2021-002.014	Vancouver School of Art : prospectus 1942-1943	1942	1 v. (8 p.)	Item is the 1941-42 prospectus of the Vancouver School of Art. The prospectus lists general information; administration and staff; courses offered; calendar and fees; and employment and war work. A "Student Application for Registration" is enclosed.	04-A-01 fld 14
Item 2021-002.015	Prospectus : twentieth session 1944-1945 : The Vancouver School of Art	1944	1 v. (20 p.)	Item is the 1944-45 prospectus of the Vancouver School of Art. The prospectus lists the object of the school; administration and staff; general information; courses of	04-A-01 fld 15

				instruction; subject content in summary; calendar and fees; and special announcements, rehabilitation courses.	
Item 2021-002.016	Prospectus : twenty-first session 1945-1946 : The Vancouver School of Art	1945	1 v. (20 p.)	Item is the 1945-46 prospectus of the Vancouver School of Art. The prospectus lists the object of the school; administration and staff; general information; courses of instruction; course content; calendar and fees; and special announcements, rehabilitation courses.	04-A-01 fld 16
Item 2021-002.017	The Vancouver School of Art : prospectus 47-48	1947	1 v. (19 p.)	Item is the 1947-48 prospectus of the Vancouver School of Art. The prospectus lists the object of the school; administration and staff; general information; courses of instruction; course content; calendar and fees; and rehabilitation courses. The cover image is by Peter Aspell.	04-A-01 fld 17
Item 2021-002.018	Prospectus : twenty-ninth session 1953-1954 : The Vancouver School of Art	1953	1 v. (24 p.)	Item is the 1953-54 prospectus of the Vancouver School of Art. The prospectus lists administration and staff; course offerings; examples of student work; list of awards and general information including fees and facilities.	04-A-01 fld 18
Item 2021-002.019	Prospectus : thirtieth session, 1954-1955 : The Vancouver School of Art	1954	1 v. (22 p.)	Item is the 1954-55 prospectus of the Vancouver School of Art. The prospectus lists staff; course offerings; examples of student work; student activities; list of awards and general information including fees, student activities and facilities. Enclosed in the prospectus is a letter to Orville Fisher from Robert Samuel Alexander detailing a proposed program for an Intermediate Painting course written September 22, 1954.	04-A-01 fld 19
Item 2021-002.020	Prospectus 1956- 1957 : The	1956	1 v. (12 p.)	Item is the 1956-57 prospectus of the Vancouver School of Art. The	04-A-01 fld 20

	Vancouver School of Art			prospectus lists administration and staff; general information; curriculum; and awards. A “Student’s Application for Registration (Day School)” is enclosed.	
Item 2021-002.021	The Vancouver School of Art : prospectus 1957-58	1957	1 v. (9 p.)	Item is the 1956-57 prospectus of the Vancouver School of Art. The prospectus is a folder that contains individual leaflets for administration and staff; commercial art and drawing; pottery and design; painting and sculpture. There are two copies of each leaflet.	04-A-01 fld 21
Item 2021-002.022	The Vancouver School of Art : excerpts from the proceedings of the Kingston Conference of Canadian Artists	June 1941	1 v. (49 p.)	Item is a volume containing typed pages documenting proceedings of the June 1941 Kingston Conference of Canadian Artists. The subject of the notes is painting and includes topics such as supports, pigments, egg tempera painting, resins, varnishes, thinners and solvents.	04-A-01 fld 22
Item 2021-002.023	Information sheet : Vancouver School of Art Painting Department : some useful plastic mediums	[ca. 1954]	3 p.	Item is an information sheet courtesy of the Vancouver School of Art Painting Department on useful plastic mediums.	04-A-01 fld 23
File S1: Fo1	[Studio Workshop prospectuses]	[1961-1968]	1 folder of textual records	File consists of three prospectuses for Studio Workshop at 812 Robson, 191-1962; and 1407 West Broadway, 1966-1967 and 1967-1968) with painting and drawing classes taught by R.S. Alexander.	04-A-02 fld 42

Series 2: EXHIBITION CATALOGUES

Dates of Creation:

1936-1977

Extent:

9 cm of textual records and graphic materials

Scope and content:

Series consists of exhibition catalogues including the Vancouver Art Gallery's B.C. Artists Annual (1936-42, 1949-51, 1953-55, 1957-58, 1966); B.C. Society of Fine Arts Annual (1937, 1942-46, 1949-53, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1967); Federation of Canadian Artists materials from 1977; Seattle Art Museum Northwest Artists catalogues and correspondence (1961, 1963, 1964, 1966, 1968); Burnaby Art Gallery 10th Anniversary (1977); UBC prospectus, evening class catalogue (1962) and newsletter (1957); and Art Gallery of Greater Victoria Painters of the B.C. Mainland (1966).

UNIT/ IDENTIFIER	TITLE	DATE	EXTENT	SCOPE AND CONTENT	LOCATION
Item 2021-002.024	Vancouver Art Gallery : fifth annual B.C. Artists exhibition catalogue	1936	1 v. (8 p.)	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the Vancouver Art Gallery's fifth annual B.C. Artists Exhibition from September 18 th to October 11 th , 1936. The catalogue lists the artists, titles and prices of work. Works include oil paintings, pastels, watercolours, black and white, and sculptures.	04-A-01 fld 24
Item 2021-002.025	Vancouver Art Gallery : sixth annual B.C. Artists exhibition catalogue	1937	1 v. (15 p.)	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the Vancouver Art Gallery's sixth annual B.C. Artists Exhibition from September 17 th to October 10 th , 1937. The catalogue lists the artists, titles and prices of work. Works include oil paintings, pastels, watercolours, black and white, and sculptures.	04-A-01 fld 25

Item 2021-002.026	Vancouver Art Gallery : seventh annual B.C. Artists exhibition catalogue	1938	1 v. (16 p.)	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the Vancouver Art Gallery's seventh annual B.C. Artists Exhibition from September 16 th to October 9 th , 1938. The catalogue lists the artists, titles and prices of work. Works include oil paintings, pastels, watercolours, black and white, and sculptures.	04-A-01 fld 26
Item 2021-002.027	Vancouver Art Gallery : eighth annual B.C. Artists exhibition [catalogue]	1939	1 v. (15 p.)	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the Vancouver Art Gallery's eighth annual B.C. Artists Exhibition from September 15 th to October 8 th , 1939. The catalogue lists the artists, titles and prices of work. Works include oil paintings, pastels, watercolours, black and white, and sculptures.	04-A-01 fld 27
Item 2021-002.028	Vancouver Art Gallery : ninth annual B.C. Artists exhibition [catalogue]	1940	1 v. (16 p.)	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the Vancouver Art Gallery's ninth annual B.C. Artists Exhibition from September 20 th to October 13 th , 1940. The catalogue lists the artists, titles and prices of work. Works include oil paintings, pastels, watercolours, black and white, and sculptures. The catalogue has been annotated with descriptive notes in pencil.	04-A-01 fld 28
Item 2021-002.029	Vancouver Art Gallery : tenth annual B.C. Artists exhibition [catalogue]	1941	1 v. (16 p.)	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the Vancouver Art Gallery's tenth annual B.C. Artists Exhibition from September 26 th to October 19 th , 1941. The catalogue lists	04-A-01 fld 29

				the artists, titles and prices of work. Works include oil paintings, pastels, watercolours, black and white, and sculptures.	
Item 2021-002.030	B.C. Summer Artists' Summer Exhibition : Vancouver Art Gallery	1942	1 leaflet	Item is the exhibition catalogue for Vancouver Art Gallery's B.C. Artists' Summer Exhibition from July 7 th to September 2 nd , 1942. The leaflet lists artists, titles, medium and prices of work.	04-A-01 fld 30
Item 2021-002.031	Vancouver Art Gallery : eleventh annual B.C. Artists exhibition [catalogue]	1942	1 v. (12 p.)	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the Vancouver Art Gallery's eleventh annual B.C. Artists Exhibition from September 25 th to October 18 th , 1942. The catalogue lists the artists, titles and prices of work. Works include oil paintings, pastels, watercolours, black and white, and sculptures.	04-A-01 fld 31
Item 2021-002.032	18 th annual British Columbia Artists' Exhibition : a jury show : Vancouver Art Gallery	1949	1 v. (10 p.)	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the Vancouver Art Gallery's eighteenth annual B.C. Artists Exhibition from October 8 th to October 30 th , 1949. The catalogue lists the artists, titles and prices of work. Works include oil paintings; water colour, gouache and pastel; sculpture and ceramics.	04-A-01 fld 32
Item 2021-002.033	B.C. Artists 19 th annual exhibition : Vancouver Art Gallery	1950	1 v. (9 p.)	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the Vancouver Art Gallery's nineteenth annual B.C. Artists Exhibition from November 28 th to December 17 th , 1950. The catalogue lists the artists,	04-A-01 fld 33

				titles and prices of work. Works include oil paintings; water colours and pastel; and sculpture.	
Item 2021-002.034	B.C. Artists 20 th annual exhibition : Vancouver Art Gallery	1951	1 v. (10 p.)	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the Vancouver Art Gallery's twentieth annual B.C. Artists Exhibition from November 27 th to December 16 th , 1951. The catalogue lists the artists, titles and prices of work. Works include oil paintings; water colours and pastel; black and white; and sculpture. Enclosed in the catalogue is a sheet titled "errata" listing errors in the publication.	04-A-01 fld 34
Item 2021-002.035	B.C. Artists 22 nd annual exhibition : Vancouver Art Gallery	1953	1 v. (8 p.)	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the Vancouver Art Gallery's twenty-second annual B.C. Artists Exhibition from September 15 th to October 4 th , 1953. The catalogue lists the artists, titles and prices of work. Works include oil paintings; water colours and pastel; and sculpture.	04-A-01 fld 35
Item 2021-002.036	Vancouver Art Gallery : 23 rd annual exhibition [B.C. Artists]	1954	1 v. (8 p.)	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the Vancouver Art Gallery's twenty-third annual B.C. Artists Exhibition from September 21 st to October 10 th , 1954. The catalogue lists the artists, titles and prices of work. Works include oil paintings, water colours and sculpture. Catalogue is annotated with notes in pencil.	04-A-01 fld 36

Item 2021-002.037	Vancouver Art Gallery : 24 th annual exhibition [B.C. Artists]	1955	1 v. (8 p.)	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the Vancouver Art Gallery's twenty-fourth annual B.C. Artists Exhibition from September 20 th to October 9 th , 1955. The catalogue lists the artists, titles and prices of work. Works include oil paintings, watercolours, graphic and sculpture.	04-A-01 fld 37
Item 2021-002.038	Vancouver Art Gallery : 26 th annual exhibition [B.C. Artists]	1957	1 v. (10 p.)	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the Vancouver Art Gallery's twenty-sixth annual B.C. Artists Exhibition from November 12 th to December 8 th , 1957. The catalogue lists the artists, titles and prices of work. Works include oil paintings, watercolour, tempera and sculpture.	04-A-01 fld 38
Item 2021-002.039	Twenty-seventh annual exhibition : British Columbia centennial : The Vancouver Art Gallery [B.C. Artists]	1958	1 v. (8 p.)	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the Vancouver Art Gallery's twenty-seventh annual B.C. Artists Exhibition from October 22 nd to November 16 th , 1958. The catalogue lists the jury of selection, artists, centennial award recipients, titles and prices of work. Works include oil paintings, watercolour, tempera, gouache, pastel and sculpture.	04-A-01 fld 39
Item 2021-002.040	34 th British Columbia annual exhibition : The Vancouver Art Gallery	1965	1 leaflet	Item is a leaflet for the Vancouver Art Gallery's thirty-fourth annual B.C. Artists Exhibition from December 1 st , 1965 to January 2 nd , 1966. The leaflet lists the artists, titles,	04-A-01 fld 40

				medium, size and price of works. The leaflet also contains a juror's statement on the last page by Paul Mills.	
Item 2021-002.041	Souvenir Catalogue of Exhibitions : opening the new Vancouver Art Gallery 1951	1951	1 v. (59 p.)	Item is a souvenir catalogue for the opening of the newly expanded Vancouver Art Gallery building at 1145 Georgia Street.	04-A-01 fld 41
Item 2021-002.042	[Vancouver Art Gallery membership brochure]	[196-?]	1 leaflet	Item is a brochure advertising Vancouver Art Gallery membership privileges and costs.	04-A-01 fld 42
Item 2021-002.043	Painting '66 : Vancouver Centennial Award Exhibition [invitation]	1966	1 handbill + envelope	Item is an invitation to the opening of the painting '66 Vancouver Centennial Award Exhibition at the Vancouver Art Gallery. An envelope addressed to R.S. Alexander accompanies the invitation.	04-A-01 fld 43
Item 2021-002.044	B.C. Society of Fine Arts : 27 th annual exhibition : April 16 to May 2, 1937	1937	1 booklet	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the B.C. Society of Fine Arts 27 th Annual Exhibition from April 16 to May 2, 1937. The works are listed in the following categories: oil paintings, water colours, graphic arts and sculpture.	04-A-01 fld 44
Item 2021-002.045	British Columbia Society of Fine Arts : thirty-second annual exhibition : Vancouver Art Gallery : May 15 th to May 31 st , 1942	1942	1 v. (5 p.)	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the B.C. Society of Fine Arts 32 nd Annual Exhibition from May 15 to May 31, 1942. The works are listed in the following categories: oil paintings, pastels, graphic arts and sculpture.	04-A-01 fld 45
Item 2021-002.046	British Columbia Society of Fine Arts : thirty-third annual exhibition : Vancouver	1943	1 leaflet	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the B.C. Society of Fine Arts 33 rd Annual Exhibition from May 15 to	04-A-01 fld 46

	Art Gallery : May 15 to June 6, 1943			June 6, 1943. The works are listed in the following categories: oil paintings, water colours, graphic arts and sculpture.	
Item 2021-002.047	B.C. Society of Fine Arts : 34 th annual exhibition : 13 th May to 4 th June, 1944	1944	1 leaflet	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the B.C. Society of Fine Arts 34 th Annual Exhibition from May 13 to June 4, 1944. The works are listed in the following categories: oil paintings, water colours, graphic arts, sculpture and ceramics.	04-A-02 fld 01
Item 2021-002.048	B.C. Society of Fine Arts : 18 th May till 10 th June : thirty-fifth annual exhibition	1945	1 leaflet	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the B.C. Society of Fine Arts 35 th Annual Exhibition from May 18 to June 10, 1945. The works are listed in the following categories: oil paintings, water colours, graphic arts, ceramics and decorative art.	04-A-02 fld 02
Item 2021-002.049	British Columbia Society of Fine Arts : 36 th annual exhibition : May 31 st to June 23 rd , 1946	1946	1 leaflet	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the B.C. Society of Fine Arts 36 th Annual Exhibition from May 31 to June 23, 1946. The works are listed in the following categories: oil paintings, water colours, pastels, sculpture.	04-A-02 fld 03
Item 2021-002.050	B.C. Society of Fine Arts : May 9 th to June 1 st , 1947 : 37 th annual exhibition	1947	1 leaflet	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the B.C. Society of Fine Arts 37 th Annual Exhibition from May 9 to June 1, 1947. The works are listed in the following categories: oil paintings, water colours, pastels, black and white, and sculpture.	04-A-02 fld 04

Item 2021-002.051	British Columbia Society of Fine Arts : 39 th annual exhibition : May 3 to May 22, 1949	1949	1 leaflet	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the B.C. Society of Fine Arts 39 th Annual Exhibition from May 3 to May 22, 1949. The works are listed in the following categories: oil paintings, water colours, sculpture, pastels and graphic arts.	04-A-02 fld 05
Item 2021-002.052	British Columbia Society of Artists : 40 th annual exhibition	1950	1 v. (16 p.)	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the B.C. Society of Artists 40 th Annual Exhibition from April 25 to May 14, 1950. The catalogue includes a list of past presidents and members; a history of the society; and the catalogue of exhibition works.	04-A-02 fld 06
Item 2021-002.053	41 st annual exhibition : British Columbia Society of Artists : April 24 to May 13, 1951 : Vancouver Art Gallery	1951	1 leaflet	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the B.C. Society of Artists 41 st Annual Exhibition from April 24 to May 13, 1951 at the Vancouver Art Gallery.	04-A-02 fld 07
Item 2021-002.054	42 nd annual exhibition of the British Columbia Society of Artists : The Vancouver Art Gallery : April one to April twenty, nineteen fifty- two	1952	1 leaflet	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the B.C. Society of Artists 42 nd Annual Exhibition from April 1 to April 20, 1952 at the Vancouver Art Gallery.	04-A-02 fld 08
Item 2021-002.055	43 rd annual exhibition : British Columbia Society of Artists : May 5 to May 31, 1953 : Vancouver Art Gallery	1953	1 leaflet	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the B.C. Society of Artists 43 rd Annual Exhibition from May 5 to May 31, 1953 at the Vancouver Art Gallery. The cover design is by Robert Alexander.	04-A-02 fld 09
Item 2021-002.056	Forty-sixth annual exhibition : British	1956	1 leaflet	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the B.C. Society of Artists 46 th Annual	04-A-02 fld 10

	Columbia Society of Artists			Exhibition from February 28 to March 18, 1956 at the Vancouver Art Gallery. The cover linocut is by George Kuthan.	
Item 2021-002.057	British Columbia Society of Artists : 48 th annual exhibition	1958	1 leaflet	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the B.C. Society of Artists 48 th Annual Exhibition from February 4 th to 22 nd , 1958 at the Fine Arts Gallery, University of British Columbia.	04-A-02 fld 11
Item 2021-002.058	50 th annual exhibition of The British Columbia Society of Artists at the Vancouver Art Gallery	1960	1 v. (20 p.)	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the B.C. Society of Artists 50 th Annual Exhibition from May 22 to June 12, 1960 at the Vancouver Art Gallery. The catalogue includes messages from Premier W.A.C. Bennett and Mayor A.T. Alsbury; a history of the society; and a list of exhibition works divided into historical, retrospective, and contemporary sections.	04-A-02 fld 12
Item 2021-002.059	Fifty-second annual exhibition : The British Columbia Society of Artists	1962	1 leaflet	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the B.C. Society of Artists 52 nd Annual Exhibition from May 8 to June 3, 1962 at the Vancouver Art Gallery.	04-A-02 fld 13
Item 2021-002.060	B.C. Society of Artists notice to members and associates	1967	1 p. + envelope	Item is a notice to members and associates of the B.C. Society of Artists sent to R.S. Alexander. The notice contains information on dues, annual exhibitions and a questionnaire.	04-A-02 fld 14
Item 2021-002.061	The British Columbia Society of Artists	1967	1 v. (12 p.)	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the B.C. Society of Artists 57 th Annual	04-A-02 fld 15

	centennial year exhibition			Exhibition from May 3 to May 28, 1967 at the Vancouver Art Gallery.	
Item 2021-002.062	[British Columbia Society of Artists newsletter 1963]	1963	2 p. + envelope	Item is a newsletter sent to R.S. Alexander and members of the B.C. Society of Artists, sent by Betty Bell. Topics include changes in the Society's by-laws, general meeting, awards/purchase prizes, a proposal re print collection at the Vancouver Art Gallery, voting privileges, travelling exhibitions and the annual exhibition.	04-A-02 fld 16
Item 2021-002.063	[Written comments about B.C. Society of Artists membership questionnaire]	1966	1 p. + envelope	Item is hand written comments [by R.S. Alexander] about a B.C. Society of Artists membership questionnaire. The document discusses the purpose of the society.	04-A-02 fld 17
File Fo1	[Notice of termination and B.C. Society of Artists meeting minutes]	1967-1968	1 folder of textual records	File consists of meeting minutes from the December 4 th and December 14 th , 1967 B.C. Society of Artists meetings and a notice signed by Irene Hoffar Reid outlining the termination of the society.	04-A-02 fld 18
File Fo2	Federation of Canadian Artists	[1977]	1 folder of textual records	File consists of documents related to the Federation of Canadian Artists, including a Painting in the Parks brochure with registration; a short history of the federation; and a list of the winter show exhibitors.	04-A-02 fld 19
Item 2021-002.064	47 th annual exhibition of Northwest artists : Seattle Art Museum	1961	1 booklet + envelope	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the 47 th annual exhibition of Northwest Artists at the Seattle Art	04-A-02 fld 20

				Museum from November 9 thru December 3, 1961.	
Item 2021-002.065	48 th annual exhibition of Northwest artists : Seattle Art Museum	1962	1 booklet + letter	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the 48 th annual exhibition of Northwest Artists at the Seattle Art Museum from November 28, 1962 thru January 6, 1963. A letter containing details around the sale of Alexander's painting "Late Autumn Sun" accompanies the catalogue.	04-A-02 fld 21
Item 2021-002.066	49 th annual exhibition of Northwest artists : Seattle Art Museum	1963	1 booklet + envelope	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the 49 th annual exhibition of Northwest Artists at the Seattle Art Museum from November 6 thru December 8, 1963.	04-A-02 fld 22
Item 2021-002.067	52 nd annual exhibition of Northwest artists : Seattle Art Museum Pavilion	1966	1 booklet	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the 52 nd annual exhibition of Northwest Artists at the Seattle Art Museum from October 28 to December 4, 1966.	04-A-02 fld 23
Item 2021-002.068	54 th annual exhibition of Northwest artists : Seattle Art Museum Pavilion	1968	1 booklet	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the 54 th annual exhibition of Northwest Artists at the Seattle Art Museum from October 4 to November 17, 1968.	04-A-02 fld 24
File Fo3	Seattle Art Museum correspondence	1962-1966	1 folder of textual records	File consists of correspondence between the Robert Alexander and representatives of the Seattle Art Museum including return cards, event invitations, jury invitations, and correspondence regarding purchase of works and payments.	04-A-02 fld 25

Item 2021-002.069	10 th anniversary show : Burnaby Art Gallery	1977	1 v. (32 p.)	Item is the exhibition catalogue for the 10 th anniversary show at the Burnaby Art Gallery from September 14 to October 9, 1977.	04-A-02 fld 26
Item 2021-002.070	Evening classes session 1961-1962 : Extension Department, University of British Columbia	1961	1 v. (70 p.)	Item is the evening classes prospectus for the 1961 to 1962 session of the Extension Department at the University of British Columbia.	04-A-02 fld 27
Item 2021-002.071	Eye news of the arts : Ext. Dept. U.B.C. : Spring 1957	1957	1 v. (9 p.)	Item is the Spring 1957 issue of the UBC Extension Department's newsletter 'Eye: News of the Arts'.	04-A-02 fld 28
Item 2021-002.072	Some painters of the B.C. Mainland	1966	1 leaflet	Item is a leaflet advertising an exhibition organized by the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria entitled 'Some Painters of the B.C. Mainland'. The leaflet lists the titles, artists, medium and size of the exhibited works.	04-A-02 fld 29
Item 2021-002.073	Provincial's Paper for December 1937 : Vol. 2, No. 12	1937	1 v. (7 p.)	Item is a catalogue and newsletter for the manufacturer Provincial's Paper	04-A-02 fld 30

Series 3: MURALS

Dates of Creation:

1945-1990

Extent:

3 cm of textual records and graphic materials

Scope and content:

Series consists of clippings, photographs and correspondence related to murals by Robert Alexander at the Penticton Airport, the H.M.C.S. Discovery and the Grosvenor Hotel in Vancouver.

UNIT/ IDENTIFIER	TITLE	DATE	EXTENT	SCOPE AND CONTENT	LOCATION
File S3: Fo1	[Penticton Mural – correspondence and expenses]	1963	1 folder of textual records	File consists of correspondence between Robert Alexander and representatives from the City of Penticton regarding the application and creation for an untitled mural at the Penticton Air Terminal building.	04-A-02 fld 31
File S3: Fo2	[Restoration and relocation of Penticton mural]	1989-1990	1 folder of textual records	File consists of materials related to the restoration and relocation of the Penticton mural by Alexander from the airport to a Penticton Library [at the Leir House Cultural Centre]. Materials include correspondence between Irene Alexander and the Leir House Cultural Centre; and an article in the December 25, 1989 issue of the British Columbia Report.	04-A-02 fld 32
File S3: Fo3	[Penticton mural clippings]	1963-1990	1 folder of textual records	File consists of news clippings related to Alexander's mural at the Penticton airport, and its relocation to the	04-A-02 fld 33

				Library/Museum complex. Clippings are from the Penticton Herald and the Vancouver Sun.	
File S3: Fo4	[H.M.C.S. Discovery mural promotional materials and letter]	[ca. 1945]	1 folder of textual records and graphic material	File consists of handmade promotional materials and a letter related to the mural completed by R.S. Alexander at the H.M.C.S. Discovery. Promotional materials include three trifold cards with photographs showing Alexander with the H.M.C.S. Discovery mural; and a self-promotional brochure with a photograph and a list of techniques including fresco, baked enamel, tempera, glass, graffito, and oil on plaster.	04-A-02 fld 34
Item 2021-002.074	[Grosvenor Hotel untitled mural original drawing]	[195-?]	1 drawing : [gouache] and ink over pencil	Item is an original drawing for an untitled mural by R.S. Alexander, it is presumed that this mural was located in the 'Potlatch Room' at the Grosvenor Hotel. Indigenous [Haida] motifs including figures, masks, blankets and feast bowls are depicted in the drawing.	Map cabinet drawer 05

Series 4: Correspondence

Dates of Creation:

1943-1991

Extent:

2 cm of textual records and graphic materials

Scope and content:

Series consists of correspondence between Irene and Robert Alexander, the Canada Council and various arts organizations, galleries and individuals. Correspondence covers topics such as grant applications, jury invitations, exhibitions, and the sale of artworks.

UNIT/ IDENTIFIER	TITLE	DATE	EXTENT	SCOPE AND CONTENT	LOCATION
File S4: Fo1	[Canada Council correspondence]	1962- 1967	1 folder of textual records	File consists of correspondence between R.S. Alexander and representatives from the Canada Council. The correspondence includes letters, acknowledgment of receipt, and award applications.	o4-A-o2 fld 35
File S4: Fo2	[Robert and Irene Alexander - professional correspondence]	1943- 1991	1 folder of textual records	File consists of correspondence between R.S. Alexander, Irene Alexander and a variety of arts organizations, individuals and galleries including UBC, Burnaby Art Gallery, the Museum of Modern Art, Douglas H. Miller, the British Columbia Vocational School, Vancouver Art Gallery, Kiwanis Club of North Vancouver, Government of British Columbia, the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Alex Fraser Galleries, Federation of Canadian Artists, North Vancouver Arts	o4-A-o2 fld 36

				<p>Council, and Kathryn Foley. Correspondence includes invitations to exhibit/apply, jury invitations, instructor information, a Christmas card competition submission, invoices, sales receipts and loan agreements.</p>	
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Series 5: Newspaper clippings

Dates of Creation:

1939-1992

Extent:

2 cm of textual records and graphic materials

Scope and content:

Series consists of news clippings related to Irene and Robert Alexander including social events, exhibitions, awards and distinctions.

UNIT/ IDENTIFIER	TITLE	DATE	EXTENT	SCOPE AND CONTENT	LOCATION
File S5: Fo1	[News clippings 1939-195-]	1939- [195-]	1 folder of textual records	File consists of eight newspaper clippings: "Further distinction won by talented local artist" (1939); "Queen gets own crest" (194-); "Miss Wini Butcher, Mrs. A.S. Grigsby and R.S. Alexander" (Vancouver Sun, 1951); [R.S. Alexander judges 50 th Annual Exhibition of B.C. Society of Artists] (1950); "Abstract art under Attack from Pulpit" (Vancouver Sun, 1951); "No 'clique' controls art gallery which shows few abstracts" (1951); "Mr. and Mrs. R.S. Alexander [at ball]" (195-); "Helping mother dress for the artist's ball" (195-).	o4-A-o2 fld 37
File S5: Fo2	[News clippings 1962-1992]	1962- 1992	1 folder of textual records	File consists of ten newspaper clippings: "B.C. Artists Exhibition" (The Buzzer, 1962); "Art World – Royal Canadian Academy Exhibition" (1963); "About art..." [RSA at SAM] (Vancouver Sun, 1966);	o4-A-o2 fld 38

				<p>“Robert S. Alexander paintings at Civic Centre” (ca. 1975); “[Judge Les Bewley] Paying tribute to longtime friend, the late R.S. Alexander” (The Citizen, 1975); “A capacity crowd of 250 persons attended the preview showing of R.S. Alexander’s show...” (1976); “Opening of the Robert Alexander exhibition at the Civic Centre” (1976); “Artist Jack Shadbolt faces six charges over income tax” (ca. 1978); “Artist Jack Shadbolt charged with evading income taxes” (ca. 1978); “This gala a very successful endeavour” (Vancouver Sun, 1992).</p>	
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Series 6: Artworks and photographic reproductions

Dates of Creation:

1939-1984

Extent:

2 cm of textual records and graphic materials

Scope and content:

Series consists of artworks by Robert S. Alexander including photographic reproductions of paintings, illustration proofs, drawings and designs.

UNIT/ IDENTIFIER	TITLE	DATE	EXTENT	SCOPE AND CONTENT	LOCATION
File S6: Fo1	[Paintings – photographic reproductions]	[1939-1956] (reproduced in the 1960's)	16 photographs	File consists of photographic reproductions of various paintings by Robert S. Alexander including “Morning Mist” (1956) and four portraits, including one of W.P. Weston. A few of the reproductions were done by William Bros. and Cleland-Kent.	04-A-02 fld 39
File S6: Fo2	[Drawings, designs and illustration proofs]	[1959-1984]	1 folder of graphic material	File consists of a list of paint colours; a greeting card printed with “Cedar Saplings” (1954); a crest; designs for Canada’s centennial celebrations; a drawing showing Alexander McKenzie designed for 1 of 4 murals at the Grosvenor Hotel; and illustration proofs. The illustration proofs were most likely created for the school text book “Canada, A New Land” (1965). Irene	04-A-02 fld 40

				Alexander drew maps for the book and Robert Alexander also provided illustrations for the publication. These proofs show colonial depictions of Indigenous peoples, colonists, maps of North America, settlements, tools and objects.	
Item 2021-002.075	Vancouver Diamond Jubilee : [First Nations] village and show : Kitsilano Park	[1946]	1 v. (16 p.)	Item is the program for the Vancouver Diamond Jubilee [First Nations] village and show at Kitsilano Park from July 1 to 13, [1946]. The cover was designed by Robert Alexander and Irene Porter [Alexander]. Note – the original 1946 title is “Indian Village and Show”. The program contains colonial depictions of Indigenous peoples and culture. The program also contains descriptions of the Native Brotherhood and Native Sisterhood of British Columbia and an introduction by Chief August Jack (Khatsahlano, X̱ats’alanexw).	04-A-02 fld 41

Series 7: Memorabilia and biographies

Dates of Creation:

Extent:

cm of textual records and graphic materials

Scope and content:

Series consists of biographical notes, clippings and documents compiled by Irene Alexander about Robert Alexander and Grace Melvin.

UNIT/ IDENTIFIER	TITLE	DATE	EXTENT	SCOPE AND CONTENT	LOCATION
File S7: Fo1	[R.S. Alexander biographical documents]	1939- [1975]	1 folder of textual records	File consists of a biography of Robert Alexander, most likely written by Irene Alexander. There is both a hand written and typed draft. File also includes two Vancouver Art Gallery certificates of merit (1939 + 1941), and a handwritten list of Robert Alexander's portraits and murals. The list is on Irene Porter and Robert Alexander letterhead.	04-A-02 fld 43
File S7: Fo2	[Grace Melvin biography and clipping]	1974-1986	1 folder of textual records	File consists of photocopies of a document by Irene Alexander entitled "My recollections of Grace Melvin", a news clipping about Melvin from 1974 and a list of Melvin's accomplishments.	04-A-02 fld 44
File S7: Fo3	[R.S. Alexander memorial exhibition programs]		1 folder of textual records	File consists of invitations, advertisements and programs related to memorial exhibitions of	04-A-02 fld 45

				works by R.S. Alexander, at the North Vancouver Civic Centre (1975) and Hycroft Manor (1986). Also included is a hand written list of colours.	
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